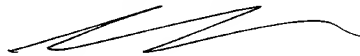


REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 5, 6 and 11 are amended to remove multiple dependencies. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Eric D. Morehouse
Registration No. 38,565

JAO:EDM/gam

Attachment:
Appendix

Date: July 30, 2001

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
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Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461
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